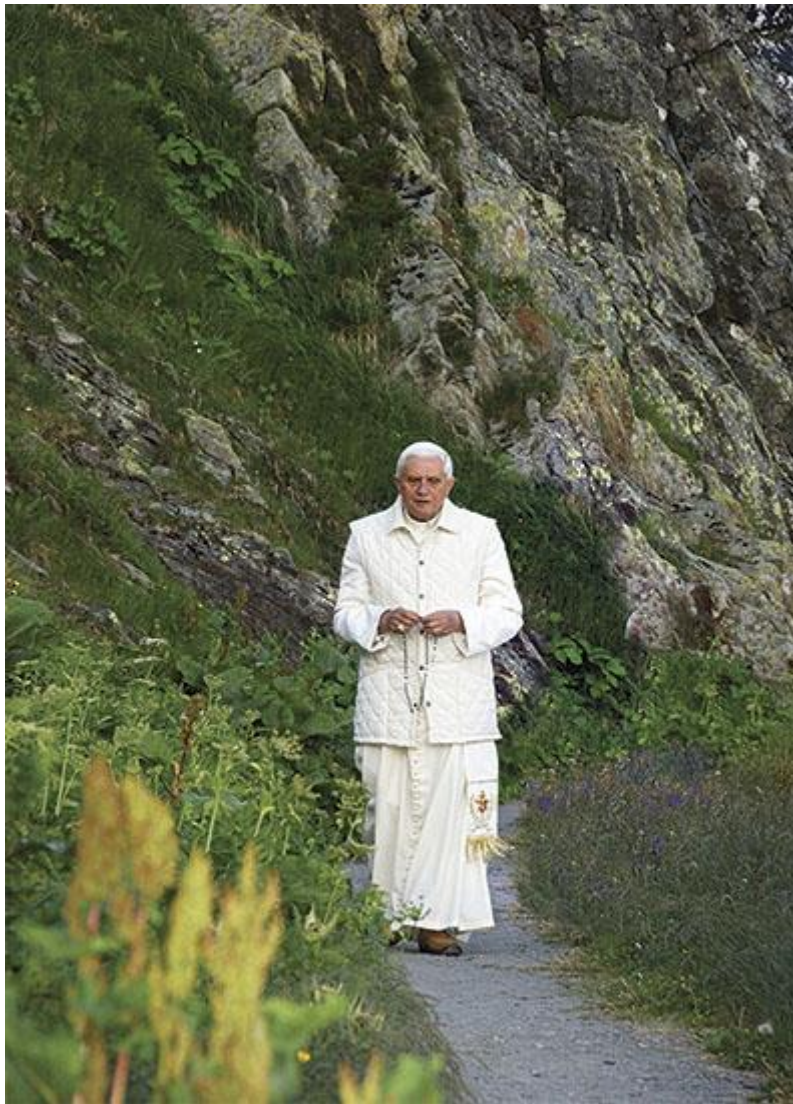


**Rosary Reflections
in Thanksgiving
for the life of
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
1927-2022**



First Luminous Mystery – The Baptism of the Lord



Font in which Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was baptised, Marktl, Bavaria, Germany

“And when Jesus was baptized the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and resting on Him, and a voice from the heaven, said, "this is My beloved Son, With whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."

-Matthew 3:16-17

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Baptism, the sacrament that opened the way to new life in God, laid a sure foundation for the life of grace, and made him “fit for eternity”. We thank you for the witness of his parents, Joseph and Maria, how they informed his faith, cultivated his holiness, expanded his wisdom and understanding, nurtured his love for God and the Church, and in passing on the faith helped him grow to full Christian maturity. Consecrated in Baptism, and guided by the light of the Holy Spirit, he prayerfully cooperated with your call to joyfully follow and serve “the One who is truly life”. May he rest in peace.

“We cannot keep to ourselves the words of eternal life given to us in our encounter with Jesus Christ: they are meant for everyone, for every man and woman... It is our responsibility to pass on what, by God's grace, we ourselves have received.” (*Benedict XVI - Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Verbum Domini, September 30, 2010*)

Second Luminous Mystery – The Wedding Feast of Cana



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI greets wedding couple in St. Peter's Square

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." ... Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim, and the water had turned into wine.

(John 2:5-7)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we recall with gratitude Pope Benedict's steadfast attentiveness to the celebration of the Sacraments of the Church, the mysteries of infinite beauty which enable us to experience the life won for us through Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Through the outpouring of Your grace, he built up the Body of Christ as he celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism. In Confirmation, he strengthened the baptised with the power of the Holy Spirit. In the celebration of the Eucharist, he fed Your people with the Body and Blood of Christ. In Confession, he allowed us to experience Your mercy, forgiveness, reconciliation, and love. He celebrated the love of a couple in marriage, and through Holy Orders, he ordained priests to confer on us these sacramental graces. In the name of Jesus, he strengthened and healed the weak, sick, and aged through the anointing of the sick. We thank you for his care of souls through his priestly ministry. May he rest in peace.

“In the Eucharist Jesus does not give us a "thing," but himself; he offers his own body and pours out his own blood. He thus gives us the totality of his life and reveals the ultimate origin of this love. He is the eternal Son, given to us by the Father. The celebration of the sacraments and the ministry of love are inseparable.” (Benedict XVI – *Sacramentum Caritatis*, n.7)

Third Luminous Mystery – The Proclamation of the Kingdom



"And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay."
(Matthew 10:7-8)

Prayer

“Jesus sat down and began to teach them.” Lord God, we pray in thanksgiving for the wisdom of Pope Benedict as a scholar, teacher, and catechist. In times of doubt, uncertainty, and confusion, he communicated the profound truths of the Kingdom of God with unwavering faith and pastoral sensitivity. His homilies, catechesis, treatises, and writings testify to a great defender of reason, a guardian of the tenets of our faith, and a humble servant of the Gospel. We thank you for his legacy of spiritual, theological, and philosophical works which draw us closer to the mysteries of the Kingdom revealed in the Person of Jesus Christ. In humility, he placed his works at the service of the mission of the Church, its growth in holiness, and the renewal of all things in Christ. The greatest testament to his life’s work were his final words before he died: “Lord, I love you!” May he rest in peace.

“This Kingdom of Christ has been entrusted to the Church which is its “seed” and its “beginning” and has the task of proclaiming it and spreading it among the peoples, with the power of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the established time, the Lord will consign the Kingdom to God the Father and will present to him all those who have lived in accordance with his commandment of love.” (Benedict XVI – Angelus, St. Peter’s Square, 25 November 2012)

Fourth Luminous Mystery – The Transfiguration



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI visits Dolomite mountains, Italy, 2007

"As he was praying, the appearance of his clothes become dazzling white. And a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is My Son, My chosen One; listen to him!"

-Luke 9:29, 35

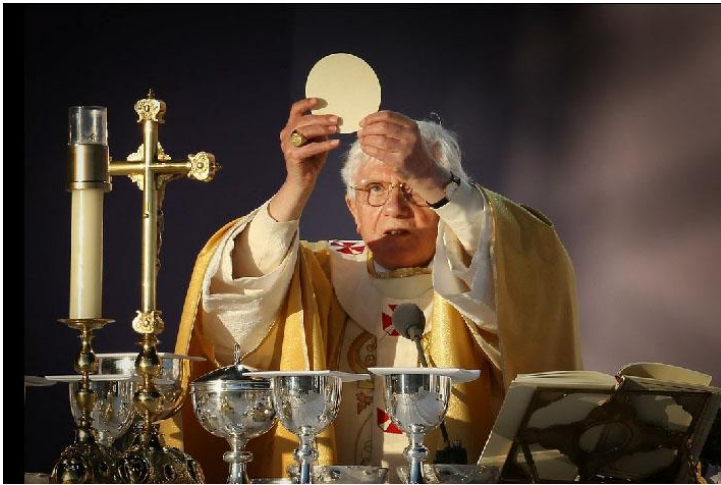
Prayer

There, in the midst of prayer at the top of the mountain, the three apostles were able to see Jesus' glory, to see him as he really is, the fulfilment of the law and the prophets. We pray in thanksgiving for Pope Benedict's witness to prayer. In prayer, he became one with the source of our

true light – Jesus Himself, who opened Benedict's heart and enlightened his mind. We thank you Lord for the way in which he steadfastly prayed with and for the people of God with the closeness and tenderness of a true shepherd. He helped us recognise the radiant, human face of God that burst into history as an infant; the silent face of Jesus, suffering and risen; the compassionate face of Christ who loved and accepted, forgave, and healed. In prayerful humility, he responded in love to "climb the mountain" and serve the Church in a way better suited to his age and strength, dedicating himself to a 'ministry of prayer'. Here, in solitude and prayer he intensified his relationship with God, strengthening us, and drawing us closer to God's divine life. May he rest in peace.

"God does not hide behind clouds of impenetrable mystery... he has shown himself, he talks to us and is with us; he lives with us and guides us in our lives." (Benedict XVI - Homily, Sistine Chapel, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, January 8, 2006)

Fifth Luminous Mystery - The Institution of the Eucharist



"He took bread, and when He had given thanks He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you" and likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

-Luke 22:19-20

Prayer

“Do this in memory of me.” The priestly ministry was born in the Cenacle, together with the Eucharist. Lord, we thank you for Pope Benedict’s life as a priest. Nourished and sustained by the Eucharist – “the Church’s greatest treasure” - he allowed himself to enter into communion with Christ, and through him the whole of the Trinity, so as to become the gift he received in the Eucharist. Through the actions of the priest, he made Christ present to his people in every eucharistic celebration, as one who walks before them and lives among them. Through the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Benedict united the Church on earth around the Eucharistic table, and fed us with Your glorious body, strengthening the Body of Christ.....

“May they all be one.”

“The more ardent the love for the Eucharist in the hearts of the Christian people, the more clearly will they recognize the goal of all mission: to bring Christ to others. Not just a theory or a way of life inspired by Christ, but the gift of his very person. Anyone who has not shared the truth of love with his brothers and sisters has not yet given enough.” (Benedict XVI - Sacramentum Caritatis, n.86, 22 February 2007)

Prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Almighty ever-living God,
who made Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI a wise teacher of your people,
a gentle shepherd of your flock,
and a faithful pastor of your Church,
grant in your kindness that your humble servant,
who in this life believed in you and loved you,
may now receive your mercy
and rejoice in your presence for ever in the glory of the saints.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Prayer sourced from United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC.)

